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COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING
STAFF REPORT

PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING DATE November 10, 2005	CONTACT/PHONE Nancy E. Orton, Supervising Planner 805-781-5008	APPLICANT Jim and Julie McDougall	FILE NO. N/A
SUBJECT Hearing to consider an appeal by Jim and Julie McDougall of a Planning Director determination (pursuant to Land Use Ordinance Section 22.70.050) that pot-bellied pigs are similar to hogs and swine and are subject to the ordinance standards for the keeping of these animals. The property is within the Residential Single Family land use category, is approximately 11,860 square feet, and is located at 1730 Peacock Place in the community of Oceano. The site is in the San Luis Bay Planning Area.			
RECOMMENDED ACTION Deny the appeal based on the finding(s) listed in Exhibit A.			
ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION Not required			
LAND USE CATEGORY Residential Single Family	COMBINING DESIGNATION Airport Review	ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER 062-303-021	SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) 4
PLANNING AREA STANDARDS: N/A			
EXISTING USES: Single family residence and detached garage			
SURROUNDING LAND USE CATEGORIES AND USES: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div><i>North:</i> Residential Single Family/duplex <i>South:</i> Residential Single Family</div><div><i>East:</i> Residential Single Family/vacant/5-lot subdivision approved <i>West:</i> Residential Single Family</div></div>			
OTHER AGENCY / ADVISORY GROUP INVOLVEMENT: N/A			
TOPOGRAPHY: Nearly level		VEGETATION: Ornamental landscaping	
PROPOSED SERVICES: Water supply: Community Sewage Disposal: Community Sewer Fire Protection: Oceano CSD		ACCEPTANCE DATE: June 27, 2005	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & BUILDING AT: COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ♦ SAN LUIS OBISPO ♦ CALIFORNIA 93408 ♦ (805) 781-5600 ♦ FAX: (805) 781-1242			

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The applicant is requesting that four (4) potbellied pigs that are living on a Residential Single Family zoned lot be considered as household pets. The County Planning Department issued a letter stating that potbellied pigs would be subject to the same restrictions as the keeping of hogs and swine, which need a minimum area of 2.5 acres and are not allowed in Residential Single Family. The letter also stated that the applicant needed to establish a timeframe with code enforcement to remove the potbellied pigs from the property. The applicant appealed the Planning Director's decision and is asking the Planning Commission to rule on the keeping of the four potbellied pigs on this property, and in so doing, is requesting that the county consider potbellied pigs as household pets rather than hogs and swine.

BACKGROUND:

In May 2005, enforcement case COD2004-00434 was opened as a result of several neighborhood complaints regarding the flies and smell associated with the keeping of four potbellied pigs on a residential lot in Oceano. The Code Enforcement Division notified the owners that potbellied pigs are classified as hogs and swine and need to be removed from the property because this type of animal is not allowed in Residential Single Family zoning. The Environmental Health Department also made a site visit in response to a call about excessive feces on the property and an abundance of flies. Although there were some feces at the time of the visit, neither that nor the flies were enough to warrant the health department taking any action. The applicant also has four dogs and two cats.

In an email dated May 5, 2005 (attached), the applicant requested a Planning Director's determination that a Pot-Bellied Pig be classified as a "household pet" rather than hogs and swine. The applicant noted that there are jurisdictions that consider them to be pet animals inasmuch as they are sold by pet shops, kept as ornamental pets and are not used as a source of food for human consumption,

The Planning Director made the determination that even though the potbellied pig is not classified by some agencies as livestock or is not used for food production, the impacts associated with the keeping of potbellied pigs is similar enough to hogs and swine to be subject to the same restrictions, specifically, that a property must be at least 2.5 acres to allow potbellied pigs and that they are not allowed in the Residential Single Family land use category (attached letter dated June 13, 2005).

On June 27, 2005, the applicants appealed the Planning Director's determination because they feel that the domesticated potbellied pig is a distant and much smaller cousin of the farm hog and swine, and thus should be governed by the same, or similar codes that regulate dogs and cats. The applicant also referred to a phrase in the Title 9 (Animal Regulations) definition of household pets (which does not specifically list potbellied pigs as household pets), "...other kindred animals usually and ordinarily kept as household pets" which they feel would include the potbellied pig because potbellied pigs are kept for no other reason than as a comfort household pet and should be given the same consideration as dogs and cats (appeal application is attached).

DISCUSSION:

The county Land Use Ordinance addresses animal keeping in Section 22.30.090. The purpose of this section is to:

“limit the number of animals allowed and the methods by which domestic, farm and exotic animals may be kept on private property, under the circumstances specified. This section is intended to minimize potential adverse effects on adjoining property, the neighborhood and persons in the vicinity from the improper management of animals. Potential adverse effects include but are not limited to the propagation of flies and other disease vectors, dust, noise, offensive odors, soil erosion and sedimentation.”

While the ordinance may be silent on potbellied pigs, it is not silent on hogs and swine, of which the potbellied pig is related to, from a genealogy standpoint. Not all specific animals are addressed in the ordinance, such as llamas or potbellied pigs. If questions arise regarding these specific animals, staff analyzes the closest animal family out of the ten listed in the ordinance, and applies those standards. In this case, staff made the call that potbellied pigs would be similar to hogs and swine. The applicable standards are:

Hogs and swine.

- a. **Limitation on use.** The keeping of hogs and swine is prohibited in the Residential Single-Family category, except as otherwise provided by Subsection H.1 (FFA projects).
- b. **Animal density.** The maximum number of hogs or swine allowed is three sows, one boar and their unweaned litter. More animals constitute a hog ranch, and are subject to Section 22.30.100.E (Hog ranches).
- c. **Setbacks.** Animal enclosures shall be located no closer than 100 feet from any dwelling other than those on the site.

The other definition that is part of the appeal is that of household pets. The Land Use Ordinance does not include a formal definition of household pets, but in Section 22.30.090F, it states that no permit is required for “three or fewer cats/dogs; or household pets other than cats/dogs.” The ordinance is silent on what “*other than*” cats/dogs means, implying that there are other animals that could be considered as household pets. The keeping of four or more dogs or cats as household pets is not allowed per the ordinance. As stated earlier, there are already four dogs on the property and two cats. The four potbellied pigs bring the total number of animals to 10.

It is acknowledged that potbellied pigs are considered household pets in some jurisdictions. A survey of other areas yielded a variety of standards:

- √ Paso Robles includes potbellied pigs in the definition of miniature animals, less than 24 inches high; three are allowed per household
- √ Arroyo Grande includes potbellied pigs in the definition of household pets, and basically three are allowed per property

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- ✓ City of San Luis Obispo does not allow swine of any kind, including pot bellied pigs, in the city
- ✓ Pismo Beach does not allow hogs and swine in the city
- ✓ Grover Beach does not allow any swine, hog or pig in the city.
- ✓ Santa Barbara County allows three swine on a 20,000 square foot lot; or one pig as a 4-H project for 6 months on a 10,000 square foot lot for no more than six months.
- ✓ Monterey County allows the keeping of pets, but not more than four dogs per dwelling unit, on lots 6,000 sq. ft. up to approximately 11,000 sq. ft. Pigs are not specifically addressed in the definition of household pets.

The property is situated at the end of a private easement called Peacock Lane, in a residential single family as well as duplex neighborhood off of Christmas Tree Place in Oceano. The closest neighboring dwelling to the site is 5 feet on the west side. The little house that three of the pigs sleep in is located along that fence line on the MacDougall's property. To the south, the nearest home is approximately 45 feet away from the property line. The property to the east is vacant; however, a 5-lot tract map was approved in July 2004. If that map records there will be three lots of 6,600-7,000 square feet backing up to the site. To the north, a duplex is located within approximately 25 feet of the rear property line, where the fourth potbellied pig lives in a small penned area.

Several attached letters from neighbors state that odor and flies have increased because of the number of animals on the property. They acknowledge that the owners try to keep the animal feces picked up, but that doesn't seem to help, and then it is accumulating in trash cans for a weekly pickup.

Staff has included as an attachment several pages from a rescue group website, which discusses pros and cons of potbellied pigs.

In order to allow the potbellied pigs to stay at this location the Planning Commission would need to find that potbellied pigs may be considered household pets. That finding could remain as a Planning Commission interpretation to the ordinance that staff would implement as policy, or the ordinance could be amended. The number of household pets would remain at three maximum, unless the ordinance was amended. If the applicant wishes to request a waiver of the maximum number of household pets allowed on the property, they could apply for a Conditional Use Permit.

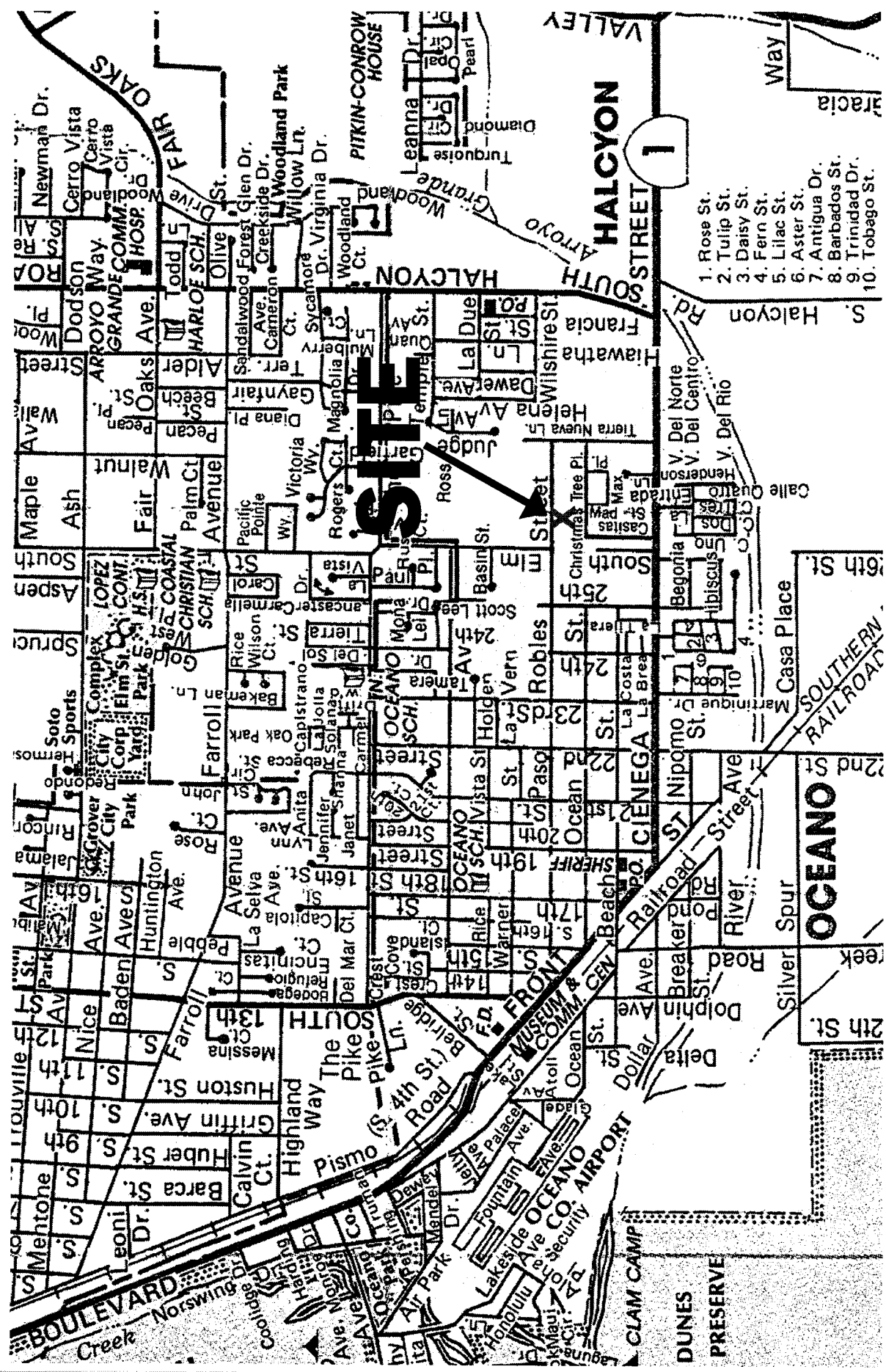
Attachments:

Inland Appeal Application from Jim and Julie McDougall
Letter to Jim McDougall dated 6/13/05
Email from Jim McDougall dated 5/5/05
Letter from Shirley Shepard dated 10/3/05
Letter from Pat Clegg dated 9/29/05
Website article from PIGS, a sanctuary

Staff report prepared by Nancy Orton, Supervising Planner
and reviewed by Kim Murry, Division Manager

EXHIBIT A – FINDINGS

- A. A potbellied pig is considered to be a member of the swine family and is therefore subject to the hog and swine standards of Section 22.30.090H.8, of the Land Use Ordinance Section.
- B. Section 22.30.090H.8 states that the keeping of hogs and swine is prohibited in the Residential Single-Family category, except for FFA projects. The potbellied pigs on the project site are not being kept as part of an FFA project. Because the potbellied pigs are not FFA projects, they are prohibited in the Residential Single Family land use category. The project site is located in the Residential Single Family land use category; therefore potbellied pigs are not allowed on this site.
- C. This request for an interpretation of the Land Use Ordinance is not a “project” under the California Environmental Quality Act and therefore does not require an environmental determination.



PROJECT

Planning Interpretation Appeal
McDougall

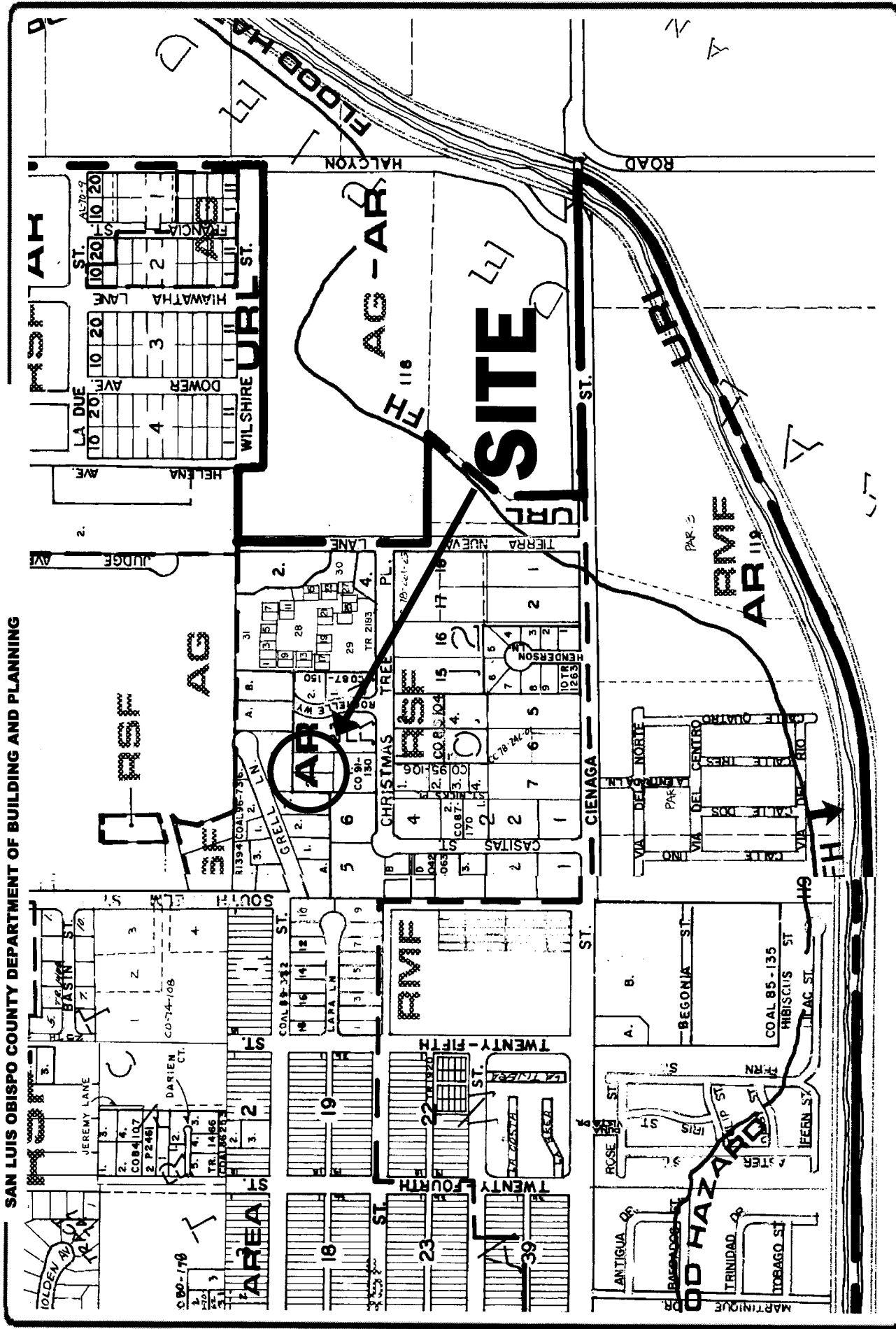
EXHIBIT

Vicinity Map



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SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND PLANNING



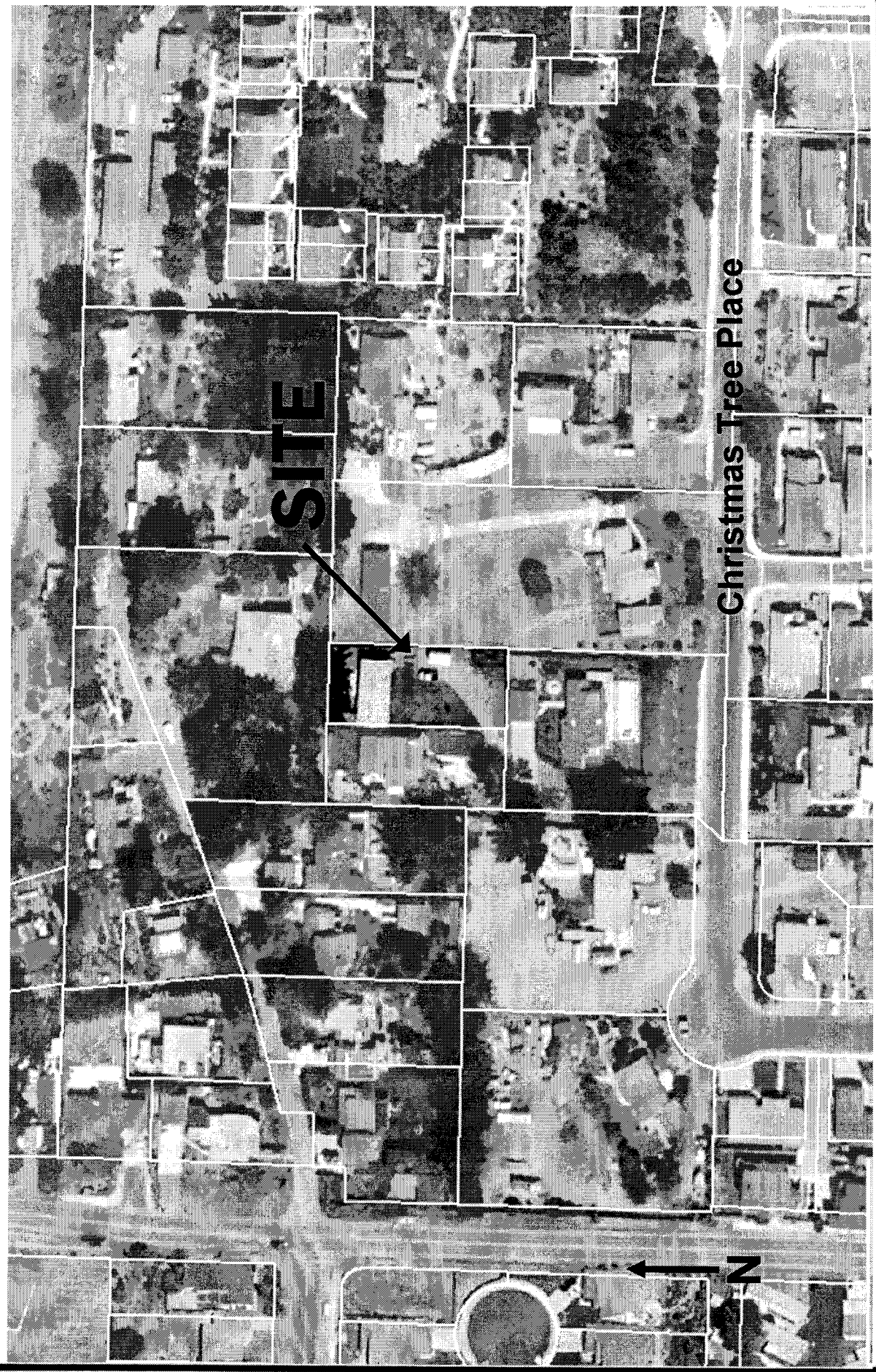
PROJECT

Planning Interpretation Appeal
McDougall

EXHIBIT

Land Use Category





PROJECT

Planning Interpretation Appeal
McDougall

EXHIBIT

Aerial Photograph





Inland Appeal Application

San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building

PROJECT INFORMATION

Type of permit being appealed:

- ☐ Plot Plan ☐ Site Plan ☐ Minor Use Permit ☐ Development Plan ☐ Variance
☐ Land Division ☐ Lot Line Adjustment ☐ Sending Site Determination ☒ Other Director's decision

File Number: _____

The decision was made by:

- ☒ Planning Director ☐ Building Official ☐ TDC Review Committee ☐ Administrative Hearing Officer
☐ Subdivision Review Board ☐ Planning Commission ☐ Other _____

Date the application was acted on 6-13-05

The decision is appealed to:

- ☐ Board of Construction Appeals ☐ Board of Handicapped Access ☒ Planning Commission ☐ Board of Supervisors

BASIS FOR APPEAL

Appeal Reasons: Please state your reasons for the appeal. In the case of a Construction Code Appeal, note specific code name and sections disputed (*attach additional sheets if necessary*). Please Note: An appeal should be filed by an aggrieved person or the applicant at each stage in the process if they are still unsatisfied by the last action.

SEE ATTACHMENT

Specific Conditions. The specific conditions that I wish to appeal that relate to the above referenced grounds for appeal are:

Condition Number	Reason for appeal (<i>attach additional sheets if necessary</i>)
<u>SLOCC 22.30.098(8a)</u>	<u>SEE ATTACHMENT</u>
<u>SLOCC 9.04.110(p)</u>	

APPELLANT INFORMATION

Print name: Jim & Julie McDougall

Address: 1730 PEACOCK PL., OCEANO Phone Number (daytime): 748-9607

We have completed this form accurately and declare all statements made here are true.

Signature

Date

6/25/05

2005 JUN 27 AM 11:15
SLO COUNTY
PLANNING & BUILDING
DEPT

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: 6-27-05

Amount Paid: \$564.00

By: Kora Franklin

Receipt No. (if applicable): _____

Revised 7/31/01

Subject: Potbellied Pigs**Basis/Reason for Appeal**

SLOCC 22.30.090(H8a) *Limitation on Use. The keeping of hogs and swine is prohibited in the Residential Single-Family category, except as otherwise provided by Subsection H.1.*

The San Luis Obispo County Planning Director has chosen to classify Potbellied Pigs as "Hogs and Swine", thus "...the keeping of pot-bellied pigs is similar enough to swine to be subject to the same restrictions." Our intention is to argue the position that the domesticated potbellied pig is a distant, and much smaller, cousin of the farm Hog and Swine the spirit of this ordinance addresses, and that they should be governed by the same, or similar, codes and ordinances that regulate dogs and cats. We intend to individually address the "nuisance" concerns of the city/county directors listed in paragraph 3 of the attached letter from Ms. Orton.

SLOCC 9.04.110(p) *"Household pets" means, but is not limited to, cats, dogs, canaries, parrots, fish, hamsters, rabbits, turtles, lizards, snakes, and other kindred animals usually and ordinarily kept as household pets.*

Potbellied Pigs are, in fact, "kindred animals usually and ordinarily kept as household pets." Potbellied Pigs are kept for no other reason than as a comfort Household Pet, and should be given the same consideration as dogs and cats. The definition of "Household Pets" should also include Potbellied Pigs to avoid any future confusion or need for interpretation.

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SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

VICTOR HOLANDA, AICP
DIRECTOR

June 13, 2005

Jim McDougall
1730 Peacock Place
Oceano, CA 93445

SUBJECT: Pot-bellied pigs

Dear Mr. McDougall:

Thank you for your patience while we sorted this item out. Since our ordinance doesn't differentiate between pot-bellied pigs and swine raised for agricultural purposes, I think you raise a valid question in whether or not it should have differing rules for these types of animals.

We raised the question at the city/county planning directors' meeting that was held last month and Kim Murry has been researching through the office of Planning and Research at the state level to see what, if anything, other jurisdictions are doing to address pot-bellied pigs. There doesn't seem to be much consistency in how other jurisdictions treat these animals from a regulation standpoint. The City of Arroyo Grande seems to be the only jurisdiction in the county that specifically allows these animals as domestic pets.

While I understand that pot-bellied pigs are extremely smart and behave in a manner similar to other domestic pets, our ordinance contains standards for animals based upon other criteria. Specifically, the ordinance addresses nuisance factors such as waste, smell, vectors, soil compaction, noise, etc. and indicates use limits or minimum parcel sizes for certain kinds of animals based upon those factors.

In this instance, our determination is that even though the pot-bellied pig is not classified by some agencies as livestock or used primarily for food production, the impacts associated with the keeping of pot-bellied pigs is similar enough to swine to be subject to the same restrictions. What this means is that a property must be at least 2 ½ acres in size to allow the keeping of up to 3 pot-bellied pigs and that they are not allowed in the Residential Single Family land use category.

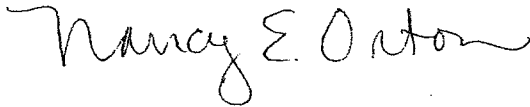
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You will need to work with the enforcement division to establish a timeframe within which to find a solution to address the pot-bellied pigs on your property.

This decision is appealable to the Planning Commission within 14 days of the date of this letter. There is an appeal fee of \$564 prior to July 1, 2005, which will increase to \$587 on July 1, 2005.

Please let me know if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy E. Orton".

Nancy E. Orton, AICP
Permit Center Supervisor

Copy to: Kim Murry, Division Manager
 Kari Scamara, Code Enforcement
 Patricia Beck, Assistant Planning Director

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Chris Macek

05/05/2005 09:39 AM

To: Pat Beck/Planning/COSLO@Wings
cc:
Subject: fyi: Pot Bellied Pigs

—— Forwarded by Chris Macek/Planning/COSLO on 05/05/2005 09:39 AM ——



"JIM MCDUGALL"
<jim_p_mcd@msn.co
m>

05/05/2005 09:30 AM

To: cmacek@co.slo.ca.us, kgriffin@co.slo.ca.us
cc: atrinidade@co.slo.ca.us, kscamara@co.slo.ca.us
Subject: Pot Bellied Pigs

Good Morning,

My name is Jim McDougall and I live on 1/3 of an acre in a somewhat rural area of Oceano/Halcyon. I was informed recently that my pet Pot Bellied Pigs (PBP's) are classified in SLO County as Hogs and Swine and must be removed from my property within 30 days. Since then, I have been doing some research on the subject and have found that the misconception that PBP are dirty stinky animals, like their distant cousins Hogs & Swine, is being dealt with by educating Planning/Zoning Authorities, with much success. Fortunately, this situation has been going on since the PBP's introduction to the U.S. in 1985, so there is quite a bit of documentation and precedents available to demonstrate that PBP's are, in fact, Household Pets and not Livestock or Farm Animals.

Here is an example quoted from a letter from David R. Bromwell, DVM, Chief Veterinarian at the State of Illinois Department of Agriculture: "This letter is in regard to the classification of Pot-Bellied Pigs. Inasmuch as those animals are sold by pet shops, kept as ornamental pets and are not utilized as a source of food for human consumption, this Department considers them pet animals." This is one example that I can provide you with in my endeavor to get PBP's classified in the SLO County codes/ordinances as "Household Pets". These animals are loved and cared for, and provide us with the same enjoyment, as our beloved cats and dogs, so they deserve the same consideration.

Currently, I am in contact with individuals and organizations that have been instrumental with educating people about PBP's, and how wonderful pets they are. I am gathering information, documentation and a video tape that I can present in my/their defense. At this point, I would like to formally request a Formal Planning Directors Interpretation of a Pot Bellied Pig and if, in fact, they can, or will, be viewed as a "Household Pet" in SLO County. Please let me know how I can provide any information to help with this decision. Also, if I could please be provided with something stating my rights to due process, appeal processes etc. are.

Respectfully yours,

Jim McDougall

1730 Peacock Place
Oceano, CA 93445
(805) 474-6800 Home
(805) 734-5328 Work
(805) 748-9607 Cell

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1785 Peacock Place
Oceano, CA 93445
Oct 3, 2005

Planning Commission
San Luis Obispo County

I am unable to attend meetings due to the fatigue and weakness and other effects of Lymphoma (recently diagnosed) thus I am writing to support county staff in the decision to declare pot-belly pigs in Oceano as swine.

I have had a number of pets in my lifetime and understand fully how attached we become to the animals in our lives. However owning a pet is a privilege and a responsibility. They should not infringe on the quality of neighbor's lives or property values

It is clear that four fully-grown pot-belly pigs are not appropriate for a normal sized residential lot. In the case of the MacDougals place when the excrement is added to that of four dogs (two of them quite large) the effect is indeed unpleasant and unsightly. There are more flies than previously. One can't help but wonder about health hazards, especially when there are children present at times.

On one occasion I discovered they had put grocery-store type plastic bags with pig and dog excrement into my green waste can. Some water and flowers which they had pulled up from the easement area next to the driveway were mixed with the bags, along with fast food trash. By the time I discovered it the can smelled terrible and was full of flies. I had to get help to transfer the mess to a heavy-duty plastic trash bag. Last November after dark all four dogs broke through two fences came into my yard. The Bloodhound came through my dog door, scaring both me and my dog. Not knowing how they got in I let them out my front gate. Soon after I called to see if all dogs were safely retrieved and to express regrets at turning them loose. Mr. MacDougal hung up on me mid-conversation.

I hope the Planning Commission will vote to support the staff recommendation so that the MacDougals will find new homes for their pigs.

Sincerely,
Shirley Shepard, 481-8355

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September 29, 2005

Pat Clegg
1740 Peacock Place
Oceano, Ca. 93445

Nancy Orton
Fax 788-2414

RE: Pigs located at 1730 Peacock Place Oceano.

With Reference to the above mentioned problem I am having a hard time figuring out why there should be such a delay on what seems to be crystal clear to myself and many of my neighbors.

There are not only FOUR (4) very large pigs, they are supposed to be pot bellies, but since the mother was rescued while she was pregnant I am in doubt about their true breed, the sow was huge when they got her and she seems to continue to grow, as well as the "baby" pigs, just on a guess I would say that none of them weigh less than 150 to 200 pounds.

There are also FOUR (4) large dogs, two that I believe are basset hounds, one blood hound, and one large mix breed dog as well as two cats.

Albeit the Mcdougalls try to keep the feces picked up from all these animals it is an impossible task since they all run free, with the exception of the first pig they rescued who is in a pen in the backyard and unable to even walk, poop patrol seems to happen in the after noon after fly's have had time to breed this has become more of a problem as the animals continue to grow.

Also I believe the feces is stored in a garbage can for the week until our garbage pick up on Thursday I think this contributes to the smell as well as the fly's.

I believe in other parts of this county there are laws about the number of animals people are allowed to have, and I think Oceano needs to be included with the surrounding towns as far as laws go.

With this number of animals I feel the amount of property involved will just not support all of them.

Sincerely,

Pat Clegg

Pat Clegg

PIGS, a sanctuary

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- ☐ New! Spike & Willie Go Home
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- ☐ Pros and Cons of Potbellied Pigs
- ☐ Thinking About Starting a Shelter or Rescue?
- ☐ Animal Sanctuaries: A Labor of Love

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Pros and Cons of Potbellied Pigs

PIGS is a sanctuary specializing in miniature and potbellied pigs, has compiled a list of the pros and cons of keeping a pig as a pet.

Although having a pig as a pet can be a rewarding experience, as with any animal, they **do** require a great deal of effort and commitment. Pigs are not maintenance free animals and are not as easy to care for as a cat or dog. Vietnamese potbellied pigs have been heavily promoted as house pets -- the Sanctuary does not endorse this belief and does not believe that pigs should be raised full time as house pets. Anyone considering a pig as a pet should know that potbellied pigs are expected to live 10 to 15 years and a full grown pig often weighs well over 130 pounds.

PROS	CONS
Pigs are intelligent and have been placed fourth on the intelligence list (humans, primates, dolphins/whales, pigs).	Because of their high level of intelligence, pigs that are kept as FULL time house pets can become bored easily and are often destructive when finding ways to entertain themselves. It is not uncommon for them to root up carpeting or linoleum floors, eat drywall, overturn house plants and root through the dirt.
Pigs that have been neutered or spayed are generally sweet natured and sensitive animals. In fact, pigs are so sensitive that you can hurt their feelings.	Pigs are herd animals and have a pecking order similar to that of chickens. Each member of the herd has a particular standing in a pecking order and a pig will usually vie to be "top pig" in the herd. When raised in the house the family members will become the pig's herd. At around 18 months of age, the struggle for "top pig" will begin. To determine the order standing, pigs fight. They will charge their opponent, snapping and swinging

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	their head. When the opponent is a family member or a guest that has come to visit, this can be quite dangerous. There is no approved rabies vaccine for a pig.
Pigs can be litter box trained. Outside pigs generally use one corner of the yard as the bathroom	Pigs do root. Anyone desiring a perfectly manicured lawn should not have a pig. Placing a ring in their nose is cruel as rooting is a natural instinct for pigs. By rooting, they obtain necessary vitamins and minerals from the ground as well as food. They have been known to eat worms and grubs and also will root to find acorns or truffles
Pigs generally enjoy hardy health. Pigs should receive yearly vaccinations, yearly hoof trimmings, and a yearly physical. Due to the size and difficulty in transporting, a vet willing to make house calls is recommended	Pigs are very susceptible to pneumonia. The biggest cause of pneumonia is weather, but it can also be brought on by stress. Pigs can "stress out" quite easily. Because of their small lung size, bronchitis or pneumonia can kill a pig quickly
Pigs have bristle like hair. People allergic to dog and cat fur may have no reaction to the hair of a pig. NOTE: We have received a few calls about allergies to the pig or the dust from the pig food.	Finding a vet knowledgeable in the health care of potbellied pigs can prove difficult. Vet care can be expensive, depending, of course, on your particular area and the health condition of your pig. Emergency treatment and/or specialized surgery can be especially expensive. Pot bellied pigs should not be treated as domestic farm hogs. Also spaying a pig is quite different from a dog or cat.
Pigs are generally clean, odorless animals	Pigs need a pool or puddle for cooling off in hot weather. They do not sweat and must have a way of lowering their body temperature when they become over heated. They need plenty of bedding in their sleeping area during the colder months. In the winter, they love to bury themselves under straw and blankets

Local zoning laws may not allow pigs as pets. If your zoning does not allow pigs, we urge you not to challenge your zoning.

At around 12 to 16 weeks of age, a female pig will go into her first heat. She will then go into heat every 21 days and can become quite moody. An intact male (not neutered) has a strong, foul odor and becomes sexually active at six to eight weeks of age. **Spay and/or neuter your pigs.**

PIGS urges anyone considering a pig as a pet to contact your local shelter, humane society, or local rescue group. Potbellied pigs are also being sold at livestock auctions. Please consider rescuing a homeless pig instead of purchasing one from a breeder or pet store. For more information on homeless pigs, please feel free to contact **PIGS, 1112 Persimmon Lane, Shepherdstown, WV 25443** or phone/fax: 304-262-0080. You can also e-mail us at FarmManager@pigs.org

----- Site Navigation ----- 

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